REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-12 and 24-39 will have been canceled and claims 22 and 23 will have been amended. Additionally, claims 40-113 will have been added. Accordingly, claims 22, 23 and 40-113 will be pending with claims 22, 23, 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 being in independent form.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 and 24-39 over the art of record. Finally, the Examiner indicated that claims 22 and 23 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if presented in independent form. By the present amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Acknowledgment of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 22 and 23 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if presented in independent form. Accordingly, as Applicant has essentially presented these claims, with some minor

changes, in independent form, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that these claims are allowed.

Interview of May 22, 2003

Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended by the Examiner in the interview of May 22, 2003. In that interview, Applicant's representative explained, among other things, that none of the applied documents disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 6. The Examiner disagreed indicating that HAYTHORNTHWAITE teaches at col. 4, line 48 to col. 5, line 3 and col. 5, lines 35-50 to compare values measured across the width of either the felt belt or the web with an average value determined from the measured values.

Applicant's representative next argued that the applied documents such as HAYTHORNTHWAITE, does not disclose or suggest conditioning the circulating felt belt wherein the conditioning is utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, as explained in, e.g., paragraphs [0038] and [0039], of the instant specification. The Examiner noted that the claims do not currently recite this feature, but indicated that he would reconsider the rejections in light of any such amendment to the claims. Applicant notes that in as much as new independent claim 40 generally recites this combination of features, Applicant submits that at least claims 40-71 define over the applied documents.

Applicant's representative further argued that the applied documents fail to disclose or suggest measuring *a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web* to determine measurement results for a plurality of zones of the fibrous material web in combination with *measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt, and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction,* determining measurement results for a plurality of zones of the circulating felt belt, and *conditioning the plurality of zones of the circulating felt belt depending on the measurement results obtained for respective zones of the fibrous material web and the circulating felt belt.* The Examiner noted that the claims do not currently recite this combination of features, but indicated that he would reconsider the rejections in light of any such amendment to the claims. Applicant notes that in as much as new independent claim 72 generally recites these features, Applicant submits that at least claims 72-104 define over the applied documents.

Traversal of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, 20, 25, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,135,615 to ROKMAN.

Applicant also traverses the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, 20, 21, 25, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,349,845 to BLOM.

Applicant additionally traverses the rejection of claims 1-5, 7 and 25-27 under 35

U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,725,737 to PIKULIK et al.

Applicant additionally also traverses the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 20, 21 and 24-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 3,859,163 to HAYTHORNTHWAITE.

The Examiner asserts that each of these documents fairly disclose all the features recited in the above-noted claims. Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections.

Applicant submits that each of the above-noted documents fails to disclose, or even suggest, the invention as defined by at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented. Notwithstanding the Office Action assertions as to what each of these documents disclose, Applicant submits that each of these documents lacks, inter alia, that *the conditioning is utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web*, as recited in independent claim 40, inter alia, *measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web*, *measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction*, and *conditioning the plurality of zones of the circulating felt belt depending on the measurement results obtained for respective zones of the fibrous material web and the circulating felt belt*, as recited in independent claim 72, inter alia, *measuring, in a plurality of zones, a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt*, and conditioning each of the plurality

of zones of the circulating felt belt depending on the deviations, as recited in independent claim 105, inter alia, *measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt, and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt*, and conditioning each of a plurality of zones of the circulating felt belt depending on the deviations, as recited in independent claims 112 and 113.

Applicant does not dispute that ROKMAN discloses a device that measures the condition of a felt and that the felt is reconditioned as a result of the measuring (see Abstract). However, it is clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to that the conditioning being utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web. To the contrary, this document is entirely concerned with the condition of the felt (see col. 7, lines 41-44). On the other hand, the invention aims to influence the condition or properties of the web by conditioning the felt (see e.g., paragraph [0038] of the instant specification). It is also clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. To the contrary, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing do in combination with measuring at least one of a

cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. As explained above, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. It is also clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring, in a plurality of zones, a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. As noted above, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Finally, it is apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. As explained herein, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Again, as noted herein, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Accordingly,

Applicant submits that this document cannot be said to disclose, or even suggest, the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented.

Applicant also does not dispute that BLOM discloses a device that measures the condition of a felt and that the felt is reconditioned as a result of the measuring (see col. 5, lines 32-38). However, it is clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to that the conditioning being utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web. Applicant further notes that while col. 4, lines 65-68 of this document notes that the amount of water in the felt can affect uneven water removal from the web, it is not apparent that such disclosure relates to achieving an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web by conditioning the felt. As explained above, the invention aims to influence the condition or properties of the web by conditioning the felt (see e.g., paragraph [0038] of the instant specification). It is also clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. To the contrary, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring at

least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. It is clear from a fair reading of this document that it contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. It is also apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring, in a plurality of zones, a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web. Finally, it is apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Again, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Clearly, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Accordingly,

Applicant submits that this document cannot be said to disclose, or even suggest, the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented.

Applicant also does not dispute that PIKULIK discloses a device that measures the condition of a felt (see Abstract). However, it is clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to that the conditioning being utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web. As explained above, the invention aims to influence the condition or properties of the web by conditioning the felt (see e.g., paragraph [0038] of the instant specification). It is also clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. To the contrary, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. It is clear from a fair reading of this document that it contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. It is further apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring, in a plurality of

zones, a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web. Finally, it is apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Again, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Clearly, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this document cannot be said to disclose, or even suggest, the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented.

Applicant additionally also does not dispute that HAYTHORNTHWAITE discloses a system for measuring the condition of a felt and that the felt is reconditioned as a result of

the measuring (see col. 4, lines 3-8). However, it is clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to that the conditioning being utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web. Applicant further notes that while col. 5, lines 18-50 of this document notes that the web can be measured and conditioned instead of the felt, it is not apparent that such disclosure relates to achieving an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web by conditioning the felt. As explained above, the invention aims to influence the condition or properties of the web by conditioning the felt (see e.g., paragraph [0038] of the instant specification). It is also clear that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. To the contrary, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. It is clear from a fair reading of this document that it contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. It is further also apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring, in a plurality of zones, a cross direction profile

of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Further, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Finally, it is apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Again, it is apparent that this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Clearly, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this document cannot be said to disclose, or even suggest, the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented.

Applicant notes that, for an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to be proper, each element of the claim in question must be disclosed in a single document, and if the document relied upon does not do so, then the rejection must be withdrawn.

Because each of these documents fails to disclose at least the above mentioned features as recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113, Applicant submits that each of these documents does not disclose all the claimed features recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that dependent claims 41-71, 73-104 and 106-111 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from an allowable base claim and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper reading of ROKMAN, BLOM, PIKULIK, or HAYTHORNTHWAITE discloses or suggests, in combination: that the machine comprises a paper making machine as recited in claim 41; that the fibrous material web comprises one of a paper or cardboard web as recited in claim 42; that the fibrous material web cross direction profile comprises a moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web as recited in claim 43; that the felt belt cross direction profile comprises a water content of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 44; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of a traversing spraying nozzle as recited in claim 45; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one spraying pipe that includes several nozzles as recited in claim 46; that the at least one spraying pipe is zonally controllable as recited in claim 47; that the process further comprises moving said at least one spraying pipe across the width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 48; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by

way of at least one pipe suction apparatus as recited in claim 49; that the at least one pipe suction apparatus is zonally controllable as recited in claim 50; that the process further comprises moving the at least one pipe suction apparatus across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 51; that the at least one pipe suction apparatus includes a ceramic body extending at least essentially across an entire width of the circulating felt belt, and wherein the process further comprises subjecting the circulating felt belt to vacuum by way of a slotted surface formed in the ceramic body, and variably adjusting, by zones, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface, to vary, a respective effective time of being subjected to vacuum as recited in claim 52; that the process further comprises variably adjusting, by way of movable tongues, the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface as recited in claim 53; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 54; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing short pipe suction apparatus including a ceramic body provided with a slotted surface by way of which the circulating felt belt is subjectable to vacuum, and wherein the process further comprises variably adjusting by zones, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface to vary a respective effective time of being subjected to vacuum as recited in claim 55; that the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface is variably adjustable by using movable tongues as recited in claim 56; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 57; that the conditioning comprises supplying separately adjustable amounts of

conditioning medium to various zones in accordance with respective target values as recited in claim 58; that the respective target values are variable as recited in claim 59; that the process further comprises diluting, outside of the machine, the conditioning medium as recited in claim 60; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing application unit, and wherein the process further comprises determining amounts of the conditioning medium supplied to each zone by using a lag time of a traversing application unit in a respective zone as recited in claim 61; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of a plurality of stationary nozzles provided across the width of the felt belt, with a corresponding number of valves being assigned to the stationary nozzles, and wherein the amount of conditioning medium supplied is determined for each zone by way of a respective valve assigned to a respective stationary nozzle as recited in claim 62; that the conditioning comprises supplying conditioning medium across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 63; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals that are mixed into conditioning water as recited in claim 64; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals supplied to at least one conditioning device provided only for chemical conditioning as recited in claim 65; that the process further comprises providing a zonal regulation of the supplied conditioning medium as recited in claim 66; that the measuring comprises measuring at least the felt belt cross direction profile and wherein the conditioning comprises adjusting zonal conditioning elements across the width of the

circulating felt belt as recited in claim 67; that the felt belt cross direction profile is measured by way of an online measuring device, with a closed-loop control preferably being formed in connection with each of the zonal conditioning elements as recited in claim 68; that the process further comprises setting at least one of predeterminable felt mean value and predeterminable ratio of a felt mean value for at least one of an upper felt and a lower felt as recited in claim 69; that the process further comprises setting at least one of a predeterminable felt mean value and a predeterminable ratio of a felt mean value, depending on at least one of a desired dry matter content and moisture cross direction profile after at least one of a pressing nip as recited in claim 70; that the process further comprises measuring online, immediately after a press section, at least one of a moisture cross direction profile and dewatering amounts occurring at at least one of grooves and a pipe suction apparatus, and adjusting the zonal conditioning elements depending on a measured result obtained in the measuring online as recited in claim 71; that the machine comprises a paper making machine as recited in claim 73; that the fibrous material web comprises one of a paper or cardboard web as recited in claim 74; that the cross direction profile of the fibrous material web comprises a moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web as recited in claim 75; that the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt comprises a water content of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 76; that the measurement results of the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt relates to water content as recited in

claim 77; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of a traversing spraying nozzle as recited in claim 78; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one spraying pipe that includes several nozzles as recited in claim 79; that the at least one spraying pipe is zonally controlled as recited in claim 80; that the process further comprises moving said at least one spraying pipe across the width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 81; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one pipe suction apparatus as recited in claim 82; that the at least one pipe suction apparatus is zonally controlled as recited in claim 83; that the process further comprises moving the at least one pipe suction apparatus across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 84; that the at least one pipe suction apparatus includes a ceramic body extending at least essentially across an entire width of the circulating felt belt, and wherein the process further comprises subjecting the circulating felt belt to vacuum by way of a slotted surface formed in the ceramic body and variably adjusting, by zone, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface, to vary the vacuum in a respective zone as recited in claim 85; that the process further comprises variably adjusting, by way of movable tongues, the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface as recited in claim 86; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 87; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing short pipe suction apparatus that includes a ceramic body having a slotted surface that subjects the circulating felt belt to vacuum, and wherein the process further comprises

variably adjusting, by zone, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface as recited in claim 88; that the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface is variably adjustable via movable tongues as recited in claim 89; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 90; that the conditioning comprises supplying separately adjustable amounts of conditioning medium to various zones in accordance with respective target values as recited in claim 91; that the respective target values are variable as recited in claim 92; that the conditioning comprises applying a diluted conditioning medium as recited in claim 93; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing application unit, and wherein the process further comprises determining amounts of the conditioning medium supplied to each zone by using a lag time of a traversing application unit in a respective zone as recited in claim 94; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of a plurality of stationary nozzles provided across the width of the circulating felt belt, with a corresponding number of valves being assigned to the stationary nozzles, and wherein the amount of conditioning medium supplied is determined for each zone by way of a respective valve assigned to a respective stationary nozzle as recited in claim 95; that the conditioning comprises supplying conditioning medium across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 96; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals that are mixed into conditioning water as recited in claim 97; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals supplied to at least one conditioning device provided only for

chemical conditioning as recited in claim 98; that the process further comprises providing a zonal regulation of the supplied conditioning medium as recited in claim 99; that the measuring comprises measuring at least the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and wherein the conditioning comprises adjusting zonal conditioning elements across the width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 100; that the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt is measured by way of an online measuring device utilizing closed-loop control as recited in claim 101; that the process further comprises setting at least one of predetermined felt mean value and predetermined ratio of a felt mean value for at least one of an upper felt and a lower felt as recited in claim 102; that the process further comprises setting at least one of a predeterminable felt mean value and a predeterminable ratio of a felt mean value, depending on at least one of a desired dry matter content and moisture cross direction profile after at least one of a pressing nip as recited in claim 103; that the measuring occurs online and immediately after a press section and wherein the process further comprises adjusting conditioning elements depending on the online measuring as recited in claim 104; a pipe suction apparatus for conditioning a circulating felt belt according to the process of claim 105, wherein the apparatus comprises a ceramic body extending at least essentially across the entire width of the circulating felt belt, said ceramic body being provided with a slotted surface by way of which the circulating felt belt is subjectable to vacuum, with a respective effective amount of slotted surface being zonally variably

adjustable by way of movable tongues as recited in claim 106; that said movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 107; that the respective effective time is varied as recited in claim 108; a traversing pipe suction apparatus for conditioning a circulating felt belt according to the process of claim 105, wherein the apparatus comprises a ceramic body provided with a slotted surface by way of which the circulating felt belt is subjectable to vacuum, with an effective amount of slotted surface being variably adjustable by way of at least one movable tongue as recited in claim 109; that the at least one movable tongue comprises a metal tongue as recited in claim 110; and that a respective effective time of being subjected to vacuum is correspondingly varied as recited in claim 111.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above-noted rejections of the above-noted claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 14-19 and 32-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HAYTHORNTHWAITE in view of US patent 5,900,117 to LIDAR.

The Examiner acknowledged that HAYTHORNTHWAITE lacks any disclosure to a ceramic material, metal sliding members, and measurements after the press nip in a press section. However, the Examiner asserted that it would have been obvious to modify

HAYTHORNTHWAITE in view of what is conventionally known in the prior art as evidenced by the teachings in LIDAR in order to render the above-noted claims unpatentable. Applicant respectfully traverses these assertions and this rejection.

Notwithstanding the Office Action assertions as to what these documents disclose or suggest, Applicant submits that no proper combination of these documents discloses or suggests, inter alia, that *the conditioning is utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web*, as recited in independent claim 40, inter alia, *measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction*, and *conditioning the plurality of zones of the circulating felt belt depending on the measurement results obtained for respective zones of the fibrous material web and the circulating felt belt*, as recited in independent claim 72, inter alia, *measuring, in a plurality of zones, a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt*, and conditioning each of the plurality of zones of the circulating felt belt depending on the deviations, as recited in independent claim 105, inter alia, *measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt, and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt*, and conditioning each of a plurality of zones of the circulating felt belt

depending on the deviations, as recited in independent claims 112 and 113.

As explained above, HAYTHORNTHWAITE lacks any disclosure or suggestion with regard to that the conditioning being utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web. Applicant notes that while col. 5, lines 18-50 of this document notes that the web can be measured and conditioned instead of the felt, it is not apparent that such disclosure relates to achieving an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web by conditioning the felt. As explained above, the invention aims to influence the condition or properties of the web by conditioning the felt (see e.g., paragraph [0038] of the instant specification). It is also clear that this document lacks any disclosure or suggestion with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. To the contrary, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. It is also clear from a fair reading of this document that it contains no disclosure or suggestion with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. It is further also apparent that this

document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring, in a plurality of zones, a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Furthermore, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Finally, it is apparent that this document lacks any disclosure or suggestion with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Again, it is apparent that this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Clearly, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this document cannot be said to disclose, or even suggest, the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented.

Applicant further submits that LIDAR lacks any disclosure or suggestion with regard

to that the conditioning being utilized to achieve an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web. Applicant notes that while the Abstract of this document notes that the felt can be cleaned with nozzle directed fluid, it is clear that this document does not disclosure or suggest achieving an optimum dry matter content and good moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web by conditioning the felt. As explained above, the invention aims to influence the condition or properties of the web by conditioning the felt (see e.g., paragraph [0038] of the instant specification). It is also clear that this document lacks any disclosure or suggestion with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. To the contrary, unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt transverse to a running direction. It is also clear from a fair reading of this document that it contains no disclosure or suggestion with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. It is further also apparent that this document lacks any disclosure with regard to measuring, in a plurality of zones, a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again,

unlike the instant invention, this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt. Again, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Finally, it is apparent that this document lacks any disclosure or suggestion with regard to measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Again, it is apparent that this document does not disclose measuring a cross direction profile of the fibrous material web, much less, doing so in combination with measuring and at least one of a cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and a permeability of the circulating felt belt across a width of the circulating felt belt. Clearly, this document contains no disclosure with regard to measuring and/or influencing the properties or condition of the web by conditioning the felt. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this document cannot be said to disclose, or even suggest, the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113 as now presented.

Because each of the applied documents fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicant submits that no proper modification and/or combination of these documents can render unpatentable the combination of features recited

in at least independent claims 40, 72, 105, 112 and 113.

Further, even assuming, *arguendo*, that it would have been obvious to modify any of these documents in the manner indicated by the Examiner, (which Applicant submits it would not be), Applicant notes that such a modification would nevertheless fail to result in the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 40, 71 and 105-107. Moreover, Applicant submits that there is no motivation to modify either of these documents in a manner which would render obvious Applicant's invention.

Applicant reminds the Examiner of the guidelines identified in M.P.E.P section 2141 which state that "[i]n determining the propriety of the Patent Office case for obviousness in the first instance, it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the reference teachings would appear to be sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art having the reference before him to make the proposed substitution, combination, or other modification." *In re Linter*, 458 F.2d 1013, 1016, 173 USPQ 560, 562 (CCPA 1972).

As this section clearly indicates, "[o]bviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992)."

Moreover, it has been legally established that "[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990) .... Although a prior art device "may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be a suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so." 916 F.2d at 682, 16 USPQ2d at 1432.). See also *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (flexible landscape edging device which is conformable to a ground surface of varying slope not suggested by combination of prior art references).

Additionally, it has been held that "[a] statement that modifications of the prior art to meet the claimed invention would have been "` well within the ordinary skill of the art at the time the claimed invention was made'" because the references relied upon teach that all aspects of the claimed invention were individually known in the art is not sufficient to establish a prima facie case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993)."

Thus, Applicant submits that there is no motivation or rationale disclosed or suggested in the art to modify the applied reference in the manner asserted by the Examiner. Nor does the Examiner's opinion provide a proper basis for these features or for the motivation to modify this document, in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant

submits that the invention as recited in at least independent claims 40, 72 and 105-107 is not rendered obvious by any reasonable inspection and interpretation of the disclosure of the applied reference.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 41-71, 73-104 and 106-111 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from an allowable base claim and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper modification or combination of HAYTHORNTHWAITE and LIDAR discloses or suggests, in combination: that the machine comprises a paper making machine as recited in claim 41; that the fibrous material web comprises one of a paper or cardboard web as recited in claim 42; that the fibrous material web cross direction profile comprises a moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web as recited in claim 43; that the felt belt cross direction profile comprises a water content of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 44; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of a traversing spraying nozzle as recited in claim 45; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one spraying pipe that includes several nozzles as recited in claim 46; that the at least one spraying pipe is zonally controllable as recited in claim 47; that the process further comprises moving said at least one spraying pipe across the width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 48; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one pipe suction apparatus as recited in claim 49; that the at least one pipe

suction apparatus is zonally controllable as recited in claim 50; that the process further comprises moving the at least one pipe suction apparatus across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 51; that the at least one pipe suction apparatus includes a ceramic body extending at least essentially across an entire width of the circulating felt belt, and wherein the process further comprises subjecting the circulating felt belt to vacuum by way of a slotted surface formed in the ceramic body, and variably adjusting, by zones, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface, to vary, a respective effective time of being subjected to vacuum as recited in claim 52; that the process further comprises variably adjusting, by way of movable tongues, the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface as recited in claim 53; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 54; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing short pipe suction apparatus including a ceramic body provided with a slotted surface by way of which the circulating felt belt is subjectable to vacuum, and wherein the process further comprises variably adjusting by zones, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface to vary a respective effective time of being subjected to vacuum as recited in claim 55; that the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface is variably adjustable by using movable tongues as recited in claim 56; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 57; that the conditioning comprises supplying separately adjustable amounts of conditioning medium to various zones in accordance with respective target values as recited

in claim 58; that the respective target values are variable as recited in claim 59; that the process further comprises diluting, outside of the machine, the conditioning medium as recited in claim 60; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing application unit, and wherein the process further comprises determining amounts of the conditioning medium supplied to each zone by using a lag time of a traversing application unit in a respective zone as recited in claim 61; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of a plurality of stationary nozzles provided across the width of the felt belt, with a corresponding number of valves being assigned to the stationary nozzles, and wherein the amount of conditioning medium supplied is determined for each zone by way of a respective valve assigned to a respective stationary nozzle as recited in claim 62; that the conditioning comprises supplying conditioning medium across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 63; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals that are mixed into conditioning water as recited in claim 64; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals supplied to at least one conditioning device provided only for chemical conditioning as recited in claim 65; that the process further comprises providing a zonal regulation of the supplied conditioning medium as recited in claim 66; that the measuring comprises measuring at least the felt belt cross direction profile and wherein the conditioning comprises adjusting zonal conditioning elements across the width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 67; that the felt belt cross direction profile is measured

by way of an online measuring device, with a closed-loop control preferably being formed in connection with each of the zonal conditioning elements as recited in claim 68; that the process further comprises setting at least one of predeterminable felt mean value and predeterminable ratio of a felt mean value for at least one of an upper felt and a lower felt as recited in claim 69; that the process further comprises setting at least one of a predeterminable felt mean value and a predeterminable ratio of a felt mean value, depending on at least one of a desired dry matter content and moisture cross direction profile after at least one of a pressing nip as recited in claim 70; that the process further comprises measuring online, immediately after a press section, at least one of a moisture cross direction profile and dewatering amounts occurring at at least one of grooves and a pipe suction apparatus, and adjusting the zonal conditioning elements depending on a measured result obtained in the measuring online as recited in claim 71; that the machine comprises a paper making machine as recited in claim 73; that the fibrous material web comprises one of a paper or cardboard web as recited in claim 74; that the cross direction profile of the fibrous material web comprises a moisture cross direction profile of the fibrous material web as recited in claim 75; that the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt comprises a water content of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 76; that the measurement results of the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt relates to water content as recited in claim 77; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of a traversing spraying nozzle

as recited in claim 78; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one spraying pipe that includes several nozzles as recited in claim 79; that the at least one spraying pipe is zonally controlled as recited in claim 80; that the process further comprises moving said at least one spraying pipe across the width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 81; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one pipe suction apparatus as recited in claim 82; that the at least one pipe suction apparatus is zonally controlled as recited in claim 83; that the process further comprises moving the at least one pipe suction apparatus across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 84; that the at least one pipe suction apparatus includes a ceramic body extending at least essentially across an entire width of the circulating felt belt, and wherein the process further comprises subjecting the circulating felt belt to vacuum by way of a slotted surface formed in the ceramic body and variably adjusting, by zone, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface, to vary the vacuum in a respective zone as recited in claim 85; that the process further comprises variably adjusting, by way of movable tongues, the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface as recited in claim 86; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 87; that the conditioning occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing short pipe suction apparatus that includes a ceramic body having a slotted surface that subjects the circulating felt belt to vacuum, and wherein the process further comprises variably adjusting, by zone, an effective slotted portion of the slotted surface as recited in

claim 88; that the effective slotted portion of the slotted surface is variably adjustable via movable tongues as recited in claim 89; that the movable tongues comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 90; that the conditioning comprises supplying separately adjustable amounts of conditioning medium to various zones in accordance with respective target values as recited in claim 91; that the respective target values are variable as recited in claim 92; that the conditioning comprises applying a diluted conditioning medium as recited in claim 93; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of at least one traversing application unit, and wherein the process further comprises determining amounts of the conditioning medium supplied to each zone by using a lag time of a traversing application unit in a respective zone as recited in claim 94; that the supplying occurs at least partially by way of a plurality of stationary nozzles provided across the width of the circulating felt belt, with a corresponding number of valves being assigned to the stationary nozzles, and wherein the amount of conditioning medium supplied is determined for each zone by way of a respective valve assigned to a respective stationary nozzle as recited in claim 95; that the conditioning comprises supplying conditioning medium across a width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 96; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals that are mixed into conditioning water as recited in claim 97; that the conditioning medium comprises conditioning chemicals supplied to at least one conditioning device provided only for chemical conditioning as recited in claim 98; that the process further comprises providing

a zonal regulation of the supplied conditioning medium as recited in claim 99; that the measuring comprises measuring at least the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt and wherein the conditioning comprises adjusting zonal conditioning elements across the width of the circulating felt belt as recited in claim 100; that the cross direction profile of the circulating felt belt is measured by way of an online measuring device utilizing closed-loop control as recited in claim 101; that the process further comprises setting at least one of predetermined felt mean value and predetermined ratio of a felt mean value for at least one of an upper felt and a lower felt as recited in claim 102; that the process further comprises setting at least one of a predeterminable felt mean value and a predeterminable ratio of a felt mean value, depending on at least one of a desired dry matter content and moisture cross direction profile after at least one of a pressing nip as recited in claim 103; that the measuring occurs online and immediately after a press section and wherein the process further comprises adjusting conditioning elements depending on the online measuring as recited in claim 104; a pipe suction apparatus for conditioning a circulating felt belt according to the process of claim 105, wherein the apparatus comprises a ceramic body extending at least essentially across the entire width of the circulating felt belt, said ceramic body being provided with a slotted surface by way of which the circulating felt belt is subjectable to vacuum, with a respective effective amount of slotted surface being zonally variably adjustable by way of movable tongues as recited in claim 106; that said movable tongues

comprise metal tongues as recited in claim 107; that the respective effective time is varied as recited in claim 108; a traversing pipe suction apparatus for conditioning a circulating felt belt according to the process of claim 105, wherein the apparatus comprises a ceramic body provided with a slotted surface by way of which the circulating felt belt is subjectable to vacuum, with an effective amount of slotted surface being variably adjustable by way of at least one movable tongue as recited in claim 109; that the at least one movable tongue comprises a metal tongue as recited in claim 110; and that a respective effective time of being subjected to vacuum is correspondingly varied as recited in claim 111.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention.

Comments on Reasons for Allowance

In response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth in the Office Action, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of the

indicated claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that the claims in the present applicant recite a combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of these claims is based on the totality of the recited features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention, as recited in each of the pending claims. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to refund excess payments and charge any additional fee necessary to have this paper entered to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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